

AGENDA



Tuesday, February 13—Morning Session

Opening Remarks by Chairman Majoras

Technical Background

- This panel will provide technical background to help inform subsequent discussions and cover topics such as: How data is routed over the Internet; the various segments of Internet access, from the end user to the content provider; how data discrimination can occur, be detected, and be countered by users and content and applications providers; and congestion and potential capacity limitations on the Internet.

What is the debate over “network neutrality” about?

- This panel will frame the debate over network neutrality and address topics such as: The regulatory changes that sparked this debate; concerns raised by proponents of net neutrality; objections raised by net neutrality opponents; and the potential harm to consumers and competition, with or without broadband connectivity regulation.

Tuesday, February 13—Afternoon Session

Discrimination, Blockage, and Vertical Integration

- This panel will address topics such as: The incentives of ISPs to discriminate against or block unaffiliated content or applications; the risks and benefits from such discrimination; and the risks and benefits of vertical integration by ISPs into content and applications.

Quality of Service, Tiering, and Charging Fees for Prioritized Delivery

- This panel will address issues relating to data prioritization by network operators, including quality-of-service requirements, tiering, and charging fees for prioritized delivery. Among the topics for this panel are: Current pricing and data exchange arrangements among the relevant parties; the likely effect on competition in the markets for content/applications and broadband access; the

likely effect on innovation at the edges of the Internet and at the network core; the two-sided nature of the broadband market; network capacity constraints and the need for prioritization; and what the end result of prioritization might be.

Wednesday, February 14—Morning Session

Current and Future State of Broadband Competition

- This panel will address the current and future state of competition in the market for broadband Internet access. Among the topics to be discussed are: Is this market really a duopoly, as some maintain? To what extent do other platforms, such as wireless, satellite, or power lines, compete with cable modem and DSL service? What has happened to prices and speeds over the past few years, and what will happen to them going forward? Is robust broadband competition sufficient to address the potential harms envisioned by proponents of broadband connectivity regulation?

Consumer Protection Issues

- This panel will address consumer protection issues relevant to the network neutrality debate, such as: The disclosure of material terms in Internet access agreements; what terms are or should be material?; the ability of consumers and enforcers to verify compliance with such terms; and privacy issues raised by developing data packet inspection technologies.

Wednesday, February 14—Afternoon Session

**What framework best promotes competition and consumer welfare?:
Industry views (first panel); academic/policy views (second panel)**

- The afternoon session on the 14th will debate what framework best promotes competition and consumer welfare in the area of broadband Internet access. The first panel will explore industry views on this subject, while the second panel will explore academic and policy analyst views. Among the topics to be discussed are the following: Is existing agency oversight by the FTC, FCC, and others sufficient to address the concerns raised by net neutrality proponents? In other words, is enforcement of existing antitrust, consumer protection, and communications laws sufficient? If broadband connectivity regulation is the best option, what form should it take? Something akin to the FCC's broadband policy statement and related conditions imposed on recent telephone mergers? To whom would it apply: ISPs, Internet backbone operators, both? How and by whom would it be enforced? If not broadband connectivity regulation, what will best promote competition and consumer welfare?